NUMB. CCCCXCVII.

The SPECTATOR.

Οὗτός ἐστι γαλεώτης γέρων. Menander.

Tuesday, September 30. 1712.

A Favour well beſtowed, is almoſt as great an Honour to him who confers it as to him who receives it. What indeed makes for the ſuperior Reputation of the Patron in this Caſe, is, that he is always ſurrounded with ſpecious Pretences of unworthy Candidates, and is often alone in the kind Inclination he has towards the Well-deſerving. Juſtice is the firſt Quality in the Man who is in a Poſt of Direction; and I remember to have heard an old Gentleman talk of the Civil Wars, and in his Relation give an Account of a General Officer, who with this one Quality, without any ſhining Endowments, became ſo popularly beloved and honoured, that all Deciſions between Man and Man were laid before him by the Parties concern'd in a private Way, and they would lay by their Animoſities implicitly if he bid them be Friends, or ſubmit themſelves in the Wrong without Reluctance, if he ſaid it, without waiting the Judgment of Court-Marſhal. His Manner was to keep the Dates of all Commiſſions in his Cloſet, and wholly diſmiſs from the Service ſuch who were deficient in their Duty, and after that took Care to prefer according to the Order of Battle. His Familiars were his entire Friends, and could have no intereſted Views in courting his Acquaintance; for his Affection was no Step to their Preferment, though it was to their Reputation. By this means a kind Aſpect, a Salutation, a Smile, and giving out his Hand, had the Weight of what is eſteemed by vulgar Minds more ſubſtantial. His Buſineſs was very ſhort, and he who had nothing to do but Juſtice, was never affronted with a Requeſt of a familiar daily Viſitant for what was due to a brave Man at a Diſtance. Extraordinary Merit he uſed to recommend to the King for ſome Diſtinction at home, till the Order of Battle made Way for his riſing in the Troops. Add to this, that he had an excellent Manner of getting rid of ſuch whom he obſerved were good at *an Halt*, as his Phraſe was. Under this Deſcription he comprehended all thoſe who were contented to live without Reproach, and had no Promptitude in their Minds towards Glory. Theſe Fellows were alſo recommended to the King, and taken off of the General's Hands into Poſts wherein Diligence and common Honeſty were all that were neceſſary. This General had no weak Part in his Line; but every Man had as much Care upon him, and as much Honour to loſe as himſelf. Every Officer could anſwer for what paſs'd where he was, and the General's Preſence was never neceſſary any where but where he had placed himſelf at the firſt Diſpoſition, except that Accident happen'd from extraordinary Efforts of the Enemy which he could not foreſee; but it was remarkable that it never fell out from Failure in his own Troops. It muſt be confeſs'd, the World is juſt ſo much out of Order, as an unworthy Perſon poſſeſſes what ſhould be in the Direction of him who has better Pretenſions to it.

Inſtead of ſuch a Conduct as this old Fellow uſed to deſcribe in his General, all the Evils which have ever happen'd among Mankind have aroſe from the wanton Diſpoſition of the Favours of the Powerful. It is generally all that Men of Modeſty and Virtue can do to fall in with ſome whimſical Turn in a Great Man, to make Way for Things of real and abſolute Service. In the Time of Don *Sebaſtian* of *Portugal*, or ſome Time ſince, the

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first Minister would let nothing come near him but what bore the most profound Face of Wisdom and Gravity. They carried it so far, that, for the greater Shew of their profound Knowledge, a Pair of Spectacles, tied on their Noses with a black Ribband round their Heads, was what compleated the Dress of those who made their Court at his Levee, and none with naked Noses were admitted to his Presence. A blunt honest Fellow, who had a Command in the Train of Artillery, had attempted to make an Impression upon the Porter Day after Day in vain, till at length he made his Appearance in a very thoughtful dark Suit of Cloaths, and two Pair of Spectacles on at once. He was conducted from Room to Room with great Deference to the Minister, and carrying on the Farce of the Place, he told his Excellence, That he had pretended in this manner to be wiser than he really was, but with no ill Intention; but he was honest Such-a-one of the Train, and he came to tell him that they wanted Wheel-barrows and Pick-axes. The thing happened not to displease, the great Man was seen to smile, and the successful Officer was reconducted with the same profound Ceremony out of the House.

When *Leo* the Tenth reigned Pope of *Rome*, his Holiness, tho' a Man of Sense, and of an excellent Taste of Letters, of all things affected Fools, Buffoons, Humourists, and Coxcombs: Whether it were from Vanity, and that he enjoyed no Talents in other Men but what were inferior to him, or whatever it was, he carried it so far, that his whole delight was in finding out new Fools, and, as our Phrase is, playing them off, and making them shew themselves to Advantage. A Priest of his former Acquaintance suffered a great many Disappointments in attempting to find Access to him in a regular Character, till at last in Despair he retired from *Rome*, and returned in an Equipage so very phantastical, both as to the Dress of himself and Servants, that the whole Court were in an Emulation who should first introduce him to his Holiness. What added to the Expectation his Holiness had of the Pleasure he should have in his Follies, was, that this Fellow, in a Dress the most exquisitely ridiculous, desired he might speak to him alone, for he had Matters of the highest Importance, upon which he wanted a Conference. Nothing could be denied to a Coxcomb of so great Hope; but when they were apart, the Impostor revealed himself, and spoke as follows.

DO not be surprized, most holy Father, at seeing, instead of a Coxcomb to laugh at, your old Friend, who has taken this Way of Access to admonish you of your own Folly. Can any thing shew your Holiness how unworthily you treat Mankind, more than my being put upon this Difficulty to speak with you? It is a Degree of Folly to delight to see it in others, and it is the greatest Insolence imaginable to rejoyce in the Disgrace of humane Nature. It is a criminal Humility in a Person of your Holiness's Understanding, to believe you cannot excel but in the Conversation of Half-wits, Humourists, Coxcombs, and Buffoons. If your Holiness has a Mind to be diverted like a rational Man, you have a great Opportunity for it, in disrobing all the Impertinents you have favoured of all their Riches and Trappings at once, and bestowing them on the Humble, the Vertuous, and the Meek. If your Holiness is not concerned for the Sake of Virtue and Religion, be pleased to reflect, that for the Sake of your own Safety it is not proper to be so very much in Jest. When the Pope is thus merry, the People will in Time begin to think many things, which they have hitherto beheld with great Veneration, are in themselves Objects of Scorn and Derision. If they once get a Trick of knowing how to laugh, your Holiness's saying this Sentence in one Night-cap and t'other with the other, the Change of your Slippers, bringing you your Staff in the Midst of a Prayer, then stripping you of one Vest and clapping on a second during Divine Service, will be found out to have nothing in it. Consider, Sir, that at this Rate a Head will be reckoned never the wiser for being bald; and the Ignorant will be apt to say, that going barefoot does not at all help on in the Way to Heaven. The red Cap and the Coul will fall under the same Contempt; and the Vulgar will tell us to our Faces, that we shall have no Authority over them but from the Force of our Arguments and the Sanctity of our Lives.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

By Her Majesty's Company of Comedians.

AT the Theatre-Royal in Drury-Lane, this present Tuesday, being the 30th of September, will be presented a Comedy, call'd, The Recruiting Officer The Part of Capt. Plume by Mr. Wilks, Serjeant Kite by Mr. Pack, Justice Balance by Mr. Keene, Worthy by Mr. Mills, Capt. Brazen by Mr. Cibber, Two Recruits by Mr. Norris and Mr. Bullock jun. Melinda by Mrs. Rogers, Silvia by Mrs. Bicknell, Rose by Miss Younger. By Her Majesty's Command no Persons are to be admitted behind the Scenes.

Poems upon several Occasions; Written by the Right Honourable George Granville Lord Lansdown, most of which were never before printed. Printed for Jacob Tonson, against Catherine-street in the Strand.

LONDON: Printed for *Sam. Buckley*, at the *Dolphin* in *Little-Britain*; and Sold by *A. Baldwin* in *Warwick-Lane*; where Advertisements are taken in; as also by *Charles Lillie*, Perfumer, at the Corner of *Beauford-Buildings* in the *Strand*.

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